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February 1960 • Vol. XIII • No. 6

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

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Volume XIII

February, 1960

Number 6

New Titles for Children and Young People

R Adler, Irving. Hot and Cold; illus. by Peggy Adler. Day, 1959. 125p. \$3.
7-

An interesting and unusual book that explores basic phenomena—temperate variations—and explains the ways in which man has used them to his advantage. The author investigates the nature of heat and the ways in which it is measured, the relation of heat to motion, and the chemical and physical bases of temperature manifestations. The index is good and the diagrams excellent. The text will be more easily comprehensible to the reader with some background in the physical sciences.

R Allan, Mabel Esther. Black Forest Summer. Vanguard, 1959. 207p. \$3.
7-10

Another good book about adolescent girls whose lives reach a turning point during a vacation away from home. As in Miss Allan's previous novels, the new setting gives perspective, so that the protagonists face—and solve—their problems. Here three sisters, newly orphaned, adjust to the loss of their mother and to their new status while they visit an uncle in Germany. The girls also learn to adjust to a family life more formal and old-fashioned than their own. Writing style is smooth, and the characters are interesting and highly individual. The ending of the book is slightly weakened by the appearance of an aunt who is a famous and wealthy artist, and who decided to return to England so that they may all live together. Not quite a pat reprieve, since the girls had already had an offer of help from Uncle Gustav, but an unnecessary last ornamentation of the plot.

R Ardizzone, Edward. Nicholas and the Fast-Moving Diesel. Walck, 1959. 46p.
K-2 illus. \$2.75.

A story with the same kind of humorous appeal as the author's tales of Little Tim: exaggerated adventures told in a calm, matter-of-fact style. Here two brave boys avert a collision between trains when they stop one and flag the other; it just happens that they are running a train because the fireman and the driver are in pain (poisoned tea) and the boys just chanced to be on the train because they were clinging to the side because . . . all delightfully bland and illogical. The illustrations are delightful in style and humor.

Ad Bell, Gina. Wanted . . . a Brother; pictures by George Wilde. Abingdon, 1959.
1-2 32p. (An Easy-To-Read Book) \$1.50.

Tim didn't mind having a sister, but he wanted somebody handy for tree-climbing and baseball. He asked his mother if he could have a brother as a birthday gift, but his mother suggested a puppy instead; he tried to borrow a brother and he tried to buy one. No luck. Tim finally realized that his sister Anne could climb trees rather well and might even be taught to play baseball. So, resigned to his fate, Tim decided

to ask for a puppy after all. A slight story, but amusing; Tim's naiveté about the availability of the commodity is not quite credible, however.

R Borg, Inga. Parrak—The White Reindeer. Warne, 1959. 32p. illus. \$2.50. 3-5

A beautifully illustrated story of the life of a Lapland reindeer as he grew from a calf to a responsible leader of the herd. The animals in this book display realistic behavior, never sentimentalized; Parrak's story is of less interest, however, than the illustrations. These are lovely paintings in which the pages in soft black and white vie in charm with those in which the author-artist has used bright colors with discriminating taste. Nice to read aloud to younger children.

Ad Boyle, Joyce. Bobby's Neighbors; illus. by Hertha Depper. Abingdon, 1959. 4-7 96p. \$2. yrs.

A simply-told series of episodes in Bobby's life, recording the everyday activities that will have the appeal of familiarity to young children: such activities as playing in the snow, watching a bonfire, or meeting a new playmate. The friends and neighbors described in this book illustrate admirably the values of friendship, family relationships, community spirit, kindness, and courtesy. Useful for reading aloud and usable by beginning independent readers, although the text is a bit positive.

NR Boyle, Kay. The Youngest Camel; reconsidered and rewritten by Kay Boyle; 4-6 illus. by Ronni Solbert. Harper, 1959. 95p. \$2.75.

A new version of the 1939 publication. A long and intricate fantasy in which a camel is warned by his mother that he must pass through the three-day ordeal of loneliness before he can attain security; the details of his vigil and his dreams are described. Full of fancy, symbolism, philosophy; an ornate work in which some carefully chiselled writing can be found. The audience to whom this book will appeal is probably quite limited. Illustrations are beautiful.

Ad Bruckner, Karl. The Golden Pharaoh. Pantheon, 1959. 191p. \$3. 7-

First published in Germany in 1957, the story of the tomb of Tutankhamon is told in two parts. The first part is a fictional account of the robbing of the tomb, then newly sealed, by four contemporaries; the writing here is slow, but rich in detail and convincing in its creation of atmosphere. The second part of the book traces developments in Egyptian archeological discoveries, beginning with investigations by the French during Napoleon's campaign. The account concludes with Carter's discovery of the golden image of the king. The material in the second part of the book has been covered in many books about Archeology (including those by Allen, Jessup, White, and Friedman) written for young people as well as in suitable adult books. Here, the account is fictionalized and the events, so dramatic in themselves, seem to lose impact when the reader cannot know where factual reporting ends.

Ad Caldwell, John Cope. Let's Visit India. Day, 1960. 96p. illus. \$2.95. 4-6

Mr. Caldwell gives the history of India and of its relationship with Great Britain as background and explanation for the more recent history. The reader sees, therefore, with somewhat sharpened perspective the position of India today in its neutral status and in its differences with Pakistan. The emphases in this volume are political and historical; interesting and informative though this material is, it seems rather unfortunate that the complex and diversified India of today receives less of the author's attention than does the country's past. Mr. Caldwell tends to make generalizations; this, and a rather pedantic style, are weaknesses of the book. A minor additional

drawback is the placement of photographs, which are occasionally referred to as "on the next page"—this is in itself distracting, but it is even more so in one case where the reference to a photograph "on this page" is incorrect.

R Caldwell, John Cope. Let's Visit Pakistan. Day, 1960. 96p. illus. \$2.95.
4-6

A companion volume to Let's Visit India. Since the two countries were one until comparatively recently, and since the relationship between the two is discussed in the volume cited above, the text here is understandably heavily repetitive. Although informative, the book devotes undue space to political alignment. The map which precedes the text is confusingly broken by inserts, and is not as good as that used in the book on India. There seems to be in this volume more stress on the instructional aspect than appears in other books in the series; there are innumerable sentences beginning with "Let's learn . . ." or "Now let's learn . . ."

R Campbell, R. W. Tops and Gyroscopes; illus. by T. W. Hogan. Crowell, 1959.
8- 174p. \$3.

The first section of the book deals with the basic laws of angular spin and with the forces at play in gyroscopic reaction. The development of increasingly complicated gyroscopic instruments is detailed; the use of this device in guided missiles brings the text very much up to date. Useful and informative, the one weakness of the book being that it reads like a compilation of encyclopedia articles—there is no flow of thought. Glossary, index, and an extensive bibliography are appended.

M Carroll, Ruth (Robinson). Bounce and the Bunnies. Walck, 1959. 48p. illus.
K-2 \$2.50.

A book that has been out of print for many years, now reissued by a new publisher. Because his owners are preoccupied, Bounce, a puppy, runs away from home; he is taken in by a family of rabbits and stays with them until he outgrows the rabbit warren. While the animals in the story behave as though they were humans much of the time, some of the aspects of their life are clearly funny because they show the natural behavior of, say, a puppy. Large print, slightly sentimental drawings of puppies and bunnies.

M Chace, Haile. About the Pilot of a Plane; illus. by Florence and Andrew
2-3 Kerechuk. Melmont, 1959. 32p. \$2.50.

A very simplified account of the training of an airplane pilot and of his duties before and during a flight. The material is not new, and the presentation is rather dull; illustrations are adequate, but do little to amplify the information given in the text—there are no diagrams, for example, that clarify references to instruments or to parts of the airplane.

Ad Chandler, Ruth Forbes. Ladder to the Sky; illus. by Harper Johnson. Abelard-
6-8 Schuman, 1959. 189p. \$3.

All of the troubles that came to the Wood family combined to make Chip, the oldest child, aware of his responsibilities and aware of the fact that some of his troubles would always be harder for him, as a Negro, to solve. When the family moved out to the country to start a flower farm, Chip found that some of his new neighbors accepted him and others did not and probably never would. A warm story of family relationships, of growing up, and of friendship values. The book is weakened by rather superficial characterization and by problems and situations that seem to have been contrived for the social message.

Ad Clewes, Dorothy. The Old Pony; illus. by Sofia. Coward-McCann, 1960.
2-4 95p. \$2.50.

Three children, under the mistaken impression that an old pony is to be put to death, steal her away and hide her in a hut. Motives are good, discovery of the deed reasonably rapid, adult reaction believable, and dénouement satisfactory. A pleasant tale, although not outstanding, of three youngsters whose intentions are better than their judgment.

Ad Clinard, Dorothy L. The Hidey Hole; by D. L. Clinard and D. D. Newby; illus. 4-6 by Albert Orbaan. Duell, 1960. 152p. \$2.95.

Merry has come east to the old family homestead with her widowed mother and invalid brother Jack; she is sure that there is a treasure left by a missing ancestor. Anxious to find the treasure so that there may be money for Jack's operation, Merry proceeds to find and follow succeeding clues with Jack's help. The mystery and the solution are a bit pat, but the story is well-constructed, characterization is good although not deep, and the historical information about Revolutionary War activities in that part of New Jersey is nicely incorporated.

R Colby, Carroll Burleigh. Our Space Age Jets; A Completely Revised Edition 5- of Our Fighting Jets. Coward-McCann, 1959. 48p. illus. \$2.

A revised edition of the 1951 publication, Our Fighting "Jets"; a very few of the originally pictured aircraft are included in this volume. Photographs and text are on alternate pages, with silhouette diagrams accompanying text. Information given for each model includes speed, range, ceiling, bomb load, engine, weight, span, length, height, and armament; where such information is classified, it is marked "secret." A page at the back of the book gives instructions for making scale models from the silhouette drawings, which show three views of each ship. Useful for identification; twenty-three jet aircraft are included.

M Conger, Marion. Who Has Seen the Wind?; pictures by Susan Perl. Abingdon, K-2 1959. 25p. \$2.

Mary feels the wind but she cannot see it, although she knows it tumbles autumn leaves and piles the snow in drifts. She asks her father if he has ever seen the wind, and he tells her that he has not, but that he knows it is important for flyers and sailors that the wind blow. In the spring, Mary feels the soft wind on her cheek and rushes in to tell her mother that the wind is seen in what it does—so that she herself has seen the wind. The ending is anticlimactic: Mary has not really had an answer, but suddenly re-interprets what she has already observed. Some of the print is against dark background and is quite hard to see. There is some feeling for environmental concepts to give value to the book, and it may have use as independent reading in grades 1-2.

R Constant, Alberta Wilson. Miss Charity Comes To Stay; illus. by Louis 6-9 Darling. Crowell, 1959. 249p. \$3.

A delightful story told by Betsy, who was twelve years old when her family moved to the Oklahoma Territory in 1893. When a school was established, Miss Charity came as the first teacher; she didn't plan to stay, but a cowboy changed her mind. The use of first person is very skillful, the people are warm and real. Interesting background and dialogue that is especially realistic and humorous.

R Darbois, Dominique. Rikka and Rindji; Children of Bali; story and photographs 3-4 by Dominique Darbois; ad. from the French. Follett, 1959. 47p. (A Children of the World Book) Library binding, \$3.15. Trade binding, \$3.50.

A description of the activities in the daily life of a Balinese family in which Rikka and her younger brother Rindji are pictured in many photographs. Since the children are charming, the photographs are most enjoyable. The text is quite informative, but has a slightly patronizing tone. It is regrettable that there is no picture of Balinese homes or communities.

R Daugherty, Charles Michael. Mirror with a Memory; The Art of Photography; 7- illus. with photographs. Harcourt, 1959. 96p. \$3.25.

A good book on photography. Giving first a history of the development of the camera, the author then discusses improvements in the camera, kinds of cameras, and some of the techniques and fine points that produce good photography. Instructions on using the camera, finding good subjects, developing film and printing are given. Information on contests and on careers in photography is included in the last section; index and bibliography are appended. The photographs used in illustrations are varied and interesting.

R Epstein, Samuel. Change for a Penny; by Samuel and Beryl Epstein; illus. by 5-7 R. M. Powers. Coward-McCann, 1959. 254p. \$3.50.

A sequel to the Revolutionary War story about Timothy Penny, who found that he could help the Patriot cause by staying home with his Cousin Bess. Here again Tim, now fortified by time and experience, has a thrilling mission; he leads a fleet of whaleboats through the treacherous channels of a swamp so that the Patriots on board can raid territory held by the British. Although the small amount of characterization is good, the strength of the book lies in the fast-paced action, smoothly described, with a plot more tightly knit than was that of Jackknife for a Penny.

Ad Fairholme, Elisabeth. Esmeralda Ahoy! by Elisabeth Fairholme and Pamela 4-6 Powell; illus. by Peter Spier. Doubleday, 1959. 212p. \$2.95.

First published in England in 1958. The story of the four Lorrimer children, left alone with a housekeeper in London when their parents think they are staying with relatives. The four buy a boat and spend all their time sailing the Thames; they become involved in the nefarious activities of men who are smuggling I.R.A. men out of the country. Suspenseful plot although not wholly believable. The children are lively and interesting, but the appeal to readers is limited by the decidedly British flavor of the dialogue and by the heavy emphasis on sailing.

Ad Falk, Elsa. Tohi; A Chumash Indian Boy; written and illus. by Elsa Falk. 3-5 Melmont, 1959. 38p. \$2.

The story of a Chumash Indian boy, in whose life, as he acquires the various adult skills, the reader sees reflected the distinguishing details of Chumash culture. The text is informative, but solid and clothed in rather bare fictional bones. The introductory statement about the Chumash tribe is not captioned or separated in any way from the body of the text; a bit confusing at the start. The book does not approach in style or structure the author's distinguished Fog Island.

R Fenton, Carroll Lane. Oliver Pete Is a Bird; by Carroll Lane Fenton and 3-5 Dorothy Constance Pallas; illus. by Carroll Lane Fenton. Day, 1959. 48p. \$2.75.

An unusually simple and clear presentation of the world of birds, illustrated by beautiful and accurate drawings. Since many children are familiar with parakeets, the authors have used a parakeet called Oliver Pete for purposes of comparing structure and habits. Each section deals briefly with a different aspect of birds: molting, safety, bills, nests, etc. This presentation gives, without making formal statements about comparative anatomy or adaptation, a vivid sense of the great differences in species.

Ad Fenton, Edward. The Nine Questions; illus. by C. Walter Hodges. Doubleday, 4-6 1959. 235p. \$2.95.

A story of magic and adventure. Willie went out into the world with his few possessions to look for his true country and his own identity. In the course of his adventures, Willie picked up the ragged walf Gabriella; and together they faced the prob-

lems and the dangers of the search, especially the villainous Interrogator in his various guises. Willie finds that he is the son of the ruler of the kingdom of the Weavers, and, in true fairytale fashion, goes to meet his long-lost father. Some of the episodes in the book are highly diverting, but the writing style is variable: the book suffers from ornate passages and is overly involved, especially for its length. The author has a good style and pace for the narrative, but the allegory is overstrained finally.

Ad Finney, Gertrude E. (Bridgeman). Stormy Winter; decorations by Don Lambo. 8- Longmans, 1959. 246p. \$3.50.

Stormy Winter, thinking that his Cathy is fickle, leaves Maine and sails to the west coast; eventually Cathy, to surprise Stormy, follows him and he marries her. Since Stormy has by this time learned to love an Indian girl, the marriage is not a great success until the bonds of having children and sharing experiences bring the two closer. The plot is set against the historical background of a boundary dispute in the Puget Sound area, and much of the book is centered on this involved and interesting controversy. The story is slow-moving, however, because of the historical material that is unnecessarily detailed for the purposes of the narrative action.

R Fisher, Dorothea Frances (Canfield). And Long Remember; Some Great 5-8 Americans Who Have Helped Me; illus. by Ezra Jack Keats. Whittlesey House, 1959. 118p. \$3.50.

Brief biographical sketches of a dozen great figures in American history. Written in the knowledge that this was her last book, Mrs. Fisher uses the lives of her subjects to illustrate ethical concepts and such basic issues as world peace, brotherhood, and idealism. Her writing is informal, and is addressed with directness and with passion to the young audience in whom she hoped to excite a deep interest.

R Floethe, Louise Lee. The Cowboy on the Ranch; with pictures by Richard K-2 Floethe. Scribner, 1959. 32p. \$2.75.

A good summary of the activities of the cowboy on a large cattle ranch; through the seasons of the year his varied tasks are described. Some of the descriptive passages about the country itself verge on the lyrical, but the text is, on the whole, informative and quite comprehensive. The format and print indicate an audience of beginning readers and of listeners, but the vocabulary is not simple; it contains many western terms and also such phrases as "In the rivers trout run." Full page illustrations in this picture book are simple and pleasing, in an interesting, although static, technique.

M Garthwaite, Marion (Hook). The Mystery of Skull Cap Island; illus. by Leslie 5-7 Goldstein. Doubleday, 1959. 185p. \$2.75.

Three boys go to stay on the family's island with an old sailor, John Handy, to supervise them. In a series of incidents that become increasingly melodramatic, the three boys become involved with a border-running gang. The story has one significant aspect: one of the three boys is crippled, and there is a positive value in his participation in events, lurid though they may be, and in the candid discussion of his special problems.

R Gates, Richard. The True Book of Conservation; written and illus. by Richard 2-4 Gates. Children's Press, 1959. 57p. \$2.

An excellent introduction to the subject of conservation, in which the author approaches the subject without any discussion of the ramifications of problems such as watershed or topsoil. He also omits any emotional pleas for preservation of wildlife, so that the text has unity and objectivity. The abundance of life and the natural balance in wilderness conditions that formerly obtained are described; this is followed

by an explanation of man's needs and how the spread of civilization upsets or eradicates natural conditions. The book concludes with a quick survey of the ways in which conservation measures are being taken; all of this material has been compressed with simplicity and succinctness.

M Georgiady, Nicholas P. Gertie the Duck; by Nicholas P. Georgiady and Louis 1-2 G. Romano; illus. by Dagmar Wilson. Follett, 1959. 29p. (A Beginning-To-Read Book) \$1.

Controlled vocabulary for beginning independent readers. Gertie wanted to build her nest near people, because she liked them; she built the nest and hatched six ducklings atop an old post near a bridge. Everybody stopped to watch Gertie and her babies, and all the town turned out to watch when, for safety's sake, the little family of ducks was moved to a pond. The story line is a bit feeble, and the implication that a duck deliberately seeks a place near humans to nest is misleading nature information. The book illustrates kindness to animals, although it does so with some extravagance; it has minimal supplementary use as material for independent reading.

NR Greene, Carla. I Want To Be a Policeman; illus. by Carol Rogers. Children's 1-2 Press, 1958. 32p. \$2.

Jack, who had moved to a new town, was lost. He went to a friendly policeman who sent Jack into the station by calling a squad car; while Jack waited for his mother there, he learned how one becomes a policeman. A policeman must go to school, help people who are hurt, learn how to use a gun, etc. A contrived situation is used as a vehicle, and the text and illustrations are not well integrated.

R Gringhuis, Dirk. Big Mac; The Building of the World's Biggest Bridge; story 4-6 and pictures by Dirk Gringhuis. Macmillan, 1959. 32p. \$2.50.

The story of the building of the great bridge across the Straits of Mackinac. The background information about the history of this region and about the need for the bridge is interesting, and the story of the construction itself even more so. The author has succeeded in giving a sense of suspense and excitement to that part of the book that tells of the actual construction of Big Mac. Diagrams illustrate clearly the steps in construction and some of the basic information about all bridge building.

M Hall, Donald. Andrew the Lion Farmer; pictures by Jane Miller. Watts, 1959. K-2 58p. \$2.95.

Andrew took his three pennies to the Lyon Shop, and the man said that they didn't sell lions, but he gave Andrew a lion seed to plant. Andrew's lion bloomed and was named Lollipop; they had wonderful times together until fall, when it was time for Lollipop to go to seed. the following year Andrew planted a lollipop seed, and then he had enough candy for all the lions that had grown from Lollipop's seed. The story is long and complex, with sophisticated concepts (and a poor concept of "seed"), and the word play and humor are of the sort to be enjoyed by adults rather than children. The level of fantasy is good, but is weakened by the ending.

NR Halladay, Anne M. New Friends for Pepe; pictures by Janet Smalley. 4-5 Bethany, 1959. 32p. \$1.75.

yrs.

Pepe was sad when he had to leave Texas for Colorado; his father was a migrant worker and went to pick sugar beets after the Texas cotton crop had been picked. Pepe soon learned that smiles made new friends; he was happy to find that the new school (courtesy of the "church people") used the same reader; the labor camp looked just the same (two rows of tents) so that Pepe felt at home. Colorless writing, which seems to have no message save the facts that labor camps can be pleasant and one can make new friends easily.

R Hawthorne, Nathaniel. The Golden Touch; illus. by Paul Galdone. Whittlesey 3-5 House, 1959. 61p. \$2.50.

The familiar story of King Midas, as Hawthorne adapted it from Greek mythology. The illustrations are of special interest here because they have the appropriate parts actually printed in gold, dramatizing vividly some of the more touching parts of the story. A very minor flaw is the drawing that shows Marygold as she turns to gold, succeeded by another picture in which the beloved child is still a golden statue, but has changed her position.

R Hays, Wilma Pitchford. Drummer Boy for Montcalm; illus. by Alan Moyler. 6-8 Viking, 1959. 191p. \$2.75.

The story of a young French boy who, newly arrived in New France, becomes involved in the battle for Quebec. Based on the life of one of the author's ancestors, this historical novel is enjoyable because of the unusual viewpoint from which the French-English struggles are seen.

M Holland, Marion. Muggsy; illus. by Theresa Sherman. Knopf, 1959. 34p. K-2 \$2.50.

The story of a bulldog who was ugly and looked ferocious—but Muggsy actually loved people and wanted only to play. The Butterfields, who had bought Muggsy at a pet shop, didn't understand him at all, and the neighborhood children were afraid of him. When a boy of four made friends with Muggsy, everybody realized they had made a mistake; the Butterfields then knew better how to take care of the dog and the youngsters clamored to play with him. A very slight tale, in which the new dog-owners are ignorant about their pet in a way which is not quite believable. There is a value in the implication that appearances are deceiving . . . the small boy in his innocence has not learned to be afraid. On the other hand, one would hardly advocate to a small listener or reader that he approach every strange dog with friendly advances.

Ad Hoppenstedt, Elbert M. Mystery at Ten Fathoms; pictures by Julio Granda. 5-7 Watts, 1959. 202p. \$2.95.

Michael's father had turned to farming when he lost his license during the war; his ship had gone down under mysterious circumstances and no evidence had ever been found that would clear him of the charge of negligence. Michael's determination to find that evidence was intensified when a strange yacht appeared on the scene, its skipper obviously interested in salvage. The action is fairly patterned, and the boy's success in a dangerous situation—involved with criminals or alone underwater—is hardly realistic; Michael and his friends, however, are otherwise quite believable and interesting young people. Family relationships and friendship values are warmly and perceptively shown; Michael is an unusually strong character.

Ad Hurd, Edith (Thacher). Mr. Charlie's Pet Shop; by Edith Thacher Hurd and 3-5 Clement Hurd. Lippincott, 1959. 33p. illus. \$2.25.

yrs.
A new career for Mr. Charlie: cheerful and busy, he and Mrs. Charlie are described in a full day in their pet shop. There is no plot; the small incidents of the day show how the animals, birds, and fishes are cared for; the needs of customers are taken care of. Children who hear the book read will receive a good idea of what goes on in a pet shop and of kindness to animals. The writing style is extremely simple; illustrations are in black and lavender on blue pages.

M Ireson, Barbara. Liza and the Helicopter; illus. by V. H. Drummond. Barnes, 2-4 1959. 31p. \$2.75.

First printed in Great Britain in 1958. A slight book about a British gentleman named Mr. Popple whose pride and joy was Liza, his ancient car. Determined to win fame

for Liza, Mr. Popple raced her against a helicopter. Victory was achieved by a series of extravagant mishaps—such as the helicopter being put out of its path by a flight of pigeons or by the entanglement of Mr. Popple's scarf in the rotors. Although the plot seems contrived, and the style of writing coy, there is humor in the exaggeration; for some readers, the subject may have appeal.

R Irving, Robert. Sound and Ultrasonics; illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher.
6-10 Knopf, 1959. 150p. \$2.75.

Interesting information that is presented in clear, crisp writing and is implemented by many excellent diagrams. The nature of sound is discussed and such phenomena as the Doppler effect and sound intensity described. Sound makers, including musical instruments; the musical scale; the way in which sound travels; and the topics of animal sounds and the human hearing mechanism are discussed in separate chapters. Some of the inventions of modern science and investigations now in progress are discussed in the final chapters on recording and transmitting sound and on ultrasonics. Index is appended.

R Irwin, Keith Gordon. The Romance of Chemistry; From Ancient Alchemy to Nuclear Fission; illus. by Anthony Ravielli. Viking, 1959. 148p. \$3.95.
7- A most enjoyable and informative book, profusely illustrated with handsome portraits in black and white. Mr. Irwin has the happy faculty of writing about men and their discoveries, about chemical equipment and experimentation, and about some of the uses of chemical knowledge in a style that seems deceptively rambling. The text is very well organized: sequential, logical, and lucid; and the author's enthusiasm for the charms of chemistry is infectious. Names and topics are separately indexed.

Ad James, Harry Clebourne. A Day in Oraibi; A Hopi Indian Village; illus. by
2-4 Don Perceval. Melmont, 1959. 32p. \$2.
A visitor is shown about the Hopi village by Honau and his sister Poli; he sees the way the houses are built, and the Kiva—the underground meeting place. He learns something of Hopi customs, food, and games. Brief, simply written, a bit dull. The information is given with authenticity and is augmented by a foreword and brief glossary. Illustrations are attractive, slightly stylized in black, white, and yellow.

Ad James, Harry Clebourne. The Hopi Indian Butterfly Dance; illus. by Don
2-4 Perceval. Melmont, 1959. 32p. \$2.
The brother and sister described in A Day in Oraibi (and two titles published in 1957: A Day with Honau and A Day with Poli) are now old enough to take part in the Hopi Butterfly Dance. Here the author gives details of the training for the dance and of the costumes and accessories worn by the dancers. The list of Hopi Indian words used in the book is given here also, as is the foreword—which is the same in all four books. Details of Hopi culture are interesting, but the writing is colorless.

Ad Jubelier, Ruth. About Jack's Dental Check Up; illus. by James David Johnson.
2-3 Melmont, 1959. 31p. \$2.50.
Almost too cheerful, but useful in encouraging dental health. Jack comes in to see Dr. Friendly, has his teeth X-rayed, and gets his first fluoride spray. Dr. Friendly commends Jack for the diet and brushing that have prevented caries. Jack is unbelievably righteous for a boy of seven . . . but the book may teach children—and some parents—facts about care of the teeth; it may serve to remind children who are nervous about dentistry that preventive care will help avoid cavities.

M Justus, May. Barney, Bring Your Banjo; illus. by Jean Tamburine. Holt,
2-3 1959. 61p. \$2.50.

A story about a boy and a song, told in folktale style. Barney wanted a song to sing at a play party, so he learned from one older person, then another, and another, the parts of a song about a pig. He had to help everybody so that they had time to help him learn. The song was a great success when Barney played his banjo and sang. The language of the tale and its subject matter indicate a limited appeal, and the charm of the folksong is not conveyed to the audience by the tedium of Barney's learning.

M Lauber, Patricia. Clarence Turns Sea Dog; illus. by Leonard Shortall.
4-6 Coward-McCann, 1959. 124p. \$3.

The indefatigable dog whose activities were the basis for two previous books goes to visit an unsuspecting hostess at Cape Cod. Humor is a bit forced and characters tend to be stereotyped (plump woman who talks baby-talk to large dog is one type). If the pace of action and humor were not quite so relentless and canine-centered this would be more amusing, since the writing style is sprightly and easy.

R Leach, Maria. The Thing at the Foot of the Bed; And Other Scary Tales;
5-7 illus. by Kurt Werth. World, 1959. 126p. \$2.95.

A collection of ghostly material, some humorous, some properly frightening; games and folklore about ghosts are included. Some of the tales are better told or read aloud, and some of the material seems flavorless, but the collection is useful and the appended notes are most interesting. The bibliography is an excellent source of further story-telling material.

NR Lerner, Marguerite Rush. Peter Gets the Chickenpox; illus. by George
2-4 Overlie. Medical Books for Children, 1959. 32p. \$2.75.

The author, a doctor, has attempted a medical book that is informational, humorous, and useful for both parent and child. It does give information that the parent may find useful, but this is the sort of information that any reputable medical handbook will give. This book, one of a series, fails seriously in its apparent purpose. It describes the advent, diagnosis, prognosis, and progress of Peter's case of chickenpox in faulty rhyme that is metrically weak. It has long quotes from the doctor that stray from the fictional to the instructional approach; and it uses format and print that are not necessary for the adult reading aloud, and are too juvenile for the child reading independently. A page of information for parents is appended.

R Loken, Anna Belle. The Colt from the Dark Forest; illus. by Donald
4-5 Bolognese. Lothrop, 1959. 127p. \$3.

Karl finds a colt in the forest, and the neighbor to whom it belongs says that the boy may keep the newborn animal. Father had said that the colt must go when its food became a financial burden; Karl finds one way and then another of keeping the colt he loves. A not-unusual horse story, but impressive in the Norwegian background details and enjoyable for the easy writing style.

M McKim, Audrey. Andy and the Gopher; illus. by Ronni Solbert. Little, 1959.
4-5 119p. \$2.75.

A fanciful story of a small boy who was lame; his condition was curable, but Andy didn't try to help himself. Then a gopher came into his life. Gulligen, the blue-eyed gopher who talked, had been a leprechaun in Ireland; with Gully's help, Andy became involved in a pet show and a soap-box derby. By the time Gully went back to Ireland, Andy had become well without thinking of the fact that he could again run and play football. The story line and the writing style are adequate, but the combination of talking animal and the Irish brogue in which he speaks makes a too-busy narrative and one which occasionally becomes coy.

Ad MacNeil, Marion Gill. On the Face of the Earth; illus. by Robert P. MacNeil. 5-7 Walck, 1959. 72p. \$2.75.

A description of the evolutionary process, from the formation of the earth to the recent accomplishments of mankind. The material is good, but it is available in other sources (Huxley's Wonderful World of Life or the volumes by Scheele) with more attractive format. The writing style is rather dry, and the author has a tendency to present theories as though they were facts: for example, the theory of the formation of the earth from solar gases is stated as a fact.

R Magee, Catherine Fowler. The Crystal Horse; decorations by Yukio Tashiro. 7-10 Longmans, 1959. 184p. \$2.95.

Because of a promise made by Dr. Masuda when he left Japan, he feels obligated to return to that country with his family after Pearl Harbor. Adolescent Susie has a very difficult time trying to comply with her grandfather's old-fashioned ideas. Fast-paced action and good characterization add to the interest of the problems of cultural conflict. Written in first person, Susie's reactions and her way of expressing herself are natural and vivacious.

Ad Mathews, Mitford M. American Words; illus. by Lorence Bjorklund. World, 7- 1959. 248p. \$3.95.

The author of the Dictionary of Americanisms has compiled a list of 200 words or phrases, for each of which a brief history (from a half page to two pages) is given. The list itself is prefaced by an interesting discussion entitled "An Old Language in a New World." Some of the derivations listed are conjectural ("juke"); the limitations of selection have necessitated many omissions; it is probable that this book, enjoyable as it is for browsing, is of less importance for a collection than an adult reference source, such as the author's single volume edition of the Dictionary of Americanisms.

R Meeker, Oden. The Little World of Laos; with a picture essay by Homer Page. 8- Scribner, 1959. 256p. \$4.50.

An absorbing book about the little-known country of Laos, written by the first representative of CARE to be sent there. Mr. Meeker writes with the competence of a practiced and resident observer; he also has a flair for handling words with color and humor that keeps the book from being merely a compilation of facts. Historical information, Laos foreign relations and the current state of events, and a wealth of anecdotal material give the reader a vivid picture of Laos. Photographs (by one of the contributors to Family of Man) are excellent: well-chosen and with interpretative comments rather than brief captions. An index is appended.

M Miller, Mary Britton. A Handful of Flowers; illus. by Genevieve Vaughan-K-2 Jackson. Pantheon, 1959. 46p. \$3.50.

The three sections of this small book are entitled "The Woods," "Pastures and Fields," and "The Garden." A few of the poems are on a more general theme, but the great majority are about individual flowers. Illustrations are delicate and pleasant. The poetry is rather mediocre, although there are occasional flashes of fresh imagery.

M Muehl, Lois Baker. My Name Is—A Game of Letters and Their Sounds; pictures by Alden A. Watson. Holiday House, 1959. 57p. \$2.95.

For each letter of the alphabet, a child whose name begins with that letter tells a story, making liberal use of other words that begin with the same letter. The idea of the book is intriguing, but the pages are confused in layout and illustration, and the vocabulary would probably limit the audience, since the format is rather juvenile for the child who can read independently this sort of word play.

M Phleger, Fred. Ann Can Fly; illus. by Robert Lopshire. Random House, 1959. 1-2 63p. (A Beginner Book) \$1.95.

Controlled vocabulary for the beginning independent reader. Ann's father flies his own plane, and he takes Ann to camp; at one point he lets Ann take over and fly the plane herself. The reader will learn something about being a pilot, and the subject is of interest to most children. Useful for the needs of its audience, the book is somewhat stilted and is the less attractive because of the mediocrity of the illustrations. It is unlikely that a child would be surprised to see that this is her father's plane, as Ann is.

R Pine, Tillie S. Water All Around; by Tillie S. Pine and Joseph Levine; illus. 2-4 by Bernice Myers. Whittlesey House, 1959. 48p. \$2.50.

A book of simple experiments that teach the reader quite a bit about various phenomena associated with water. The experiments are safe and require no special equipment; the text states clearly the process that is being tested without unnecessary explanation of concepts that might be difficult for the young reader to grasp. Solutions, evaporation, water level, and similar aspects of the behavior of water are discussed. Useful as first science material.

R Priestley, John Boynton. The Wonderful World of the Theatre; designer: 7-10 Germano Facetti; ed.: David Lambert; art: Kempster et al. Garden City, 1959. 69p. \$2.95.

A handsome addition to the series of oversize books, liberally illustrated. Chapters that review the history of the theatre are preceded by a general discussion on what constitutes this art form. Most of the text covers the developments in European theatre, but one section gives brief synopses of Hindu, Chinese, and Japanese traditional forms. The contributions of designers and directors, the experiments in theatre and stage construction, and effects of mass media entertainment are described succinctly in the final sections of the book. Although some of the history of the theatre is of necessity omitted, the book gives an excellent panoramic view.

R Ripley, Elizabeth (Blake). Picasso. Lippincott, 1959. 70p. illus. \$3. 7-10

An impressive addition to the author's series of brief biographies of great artists. Each page of text is opposed by a full-page reproduction (excellently done in black and white) related to the period being discussed. Picasso emerges as a vivid personality, and the impact of his work on the people working in the same genre is made impressively clear. Because she writes within a limited area, does not over-explain theories but lets the work of the artist speak for itself, and comments on facts rather than making value judgments, the author has written a book that is a true contribution to the understanding of an artist by young people.

R Ritchie, Barbara. Ramón Makes a Trade; Los Cambios de Ramón; a picture 3-6 story in English and Spanish; illus. by Earl Thollander. Parnassus, 1959. 49p. \$3.25.

A picture book in English and Spanish, the translation being idiomatic rather than exact. On each page the English words are printed above in black, the same portion of the story being printed, in Spanish, in brown on the lower half of the page. The story itself is delightful, told with warmth and simplicity about people who are simple and warm. Ramon has made a pottery bowl that he wishes to trade for a parakeet; by a series of trades and some hard work, the boy gets his desired Senor Parakeet. All of the adults with whom he deals are kind and they treat Ramon with dignity. Illustrations are handsome, somewhat stylized in execution and using just a few vivid colors. Useful for Spanish-speaking readers as well as students of the language. Good for story-telling.

R Rowland, Florence Wightman. Eo of the Caves; pictures: Bernard Krigstein. 4-6 Walck, 1959. 160p. \$3.

The story of Eo and the vicissitudes of his life as a cave dweller; simply told, so that the adventures of daily life are exciting. Eo's parents disappear, and the boy wanders off with his dog and joins another small family. There are no other people in the story—the groups still dwell in the trees, only a few having ventured down to live in caves. The characters are quite natural and real, the atmosphere convincing and the informational details of cave culture are smoothly incorporated into the narrative.

R Savage, Katherine. People and Power; The Story of Three Nations; illus. with 8- photographs and maps. Walck, 1959. 250p. \$4.

The histories of Russia, Japan, and Germany up to the beginning of World War II. Each of the nations is discussed in a separate section, illustrated by a balanced selection of photographs and drawings. Bibliography and quite extensive index are appended. The author has a crisp, rather formal writing style; she writes with a broad and objective view point. Clear and informative, this is an excellent source from which the young reader may gain understanding of some of the forces that led to a world war and that are still operative in the international scene.

R Scott-Moncrieff, Ann. Auntie Robbo; illus. by Christopher Brooker. Viking, 5-7 1959. 192p. \$2.50.

Originally published in 1941, this is a reissue with new illustrations. Hector, age eleven, is the ward of his eighty-one year old aunt; Auntie Robbo is delightful, disreputable, and more than slightly fey. When an unappetizing stepmother shows up to claim Hector, the boy and his aunt decamp; a series of improbable and hilarious adventures then befall the two and their companions, three children from an Edinburgh slum. Plot, atmosphere, and characters are all enjoyable and not quite believable; there's hardly an upright play in the book, and it's all great fun.

R Sharp, Margery. The Rescuers; illus. by Garth Williams. Little, 1959. 149p. 6- \$3.50.

A fantasy that may prove as enduring as it is endearing, with gentle satire that can be enjoyed by adult readers and with pace and humor for younger readers or listeners. The Prisoners' Aid Society, an organization of social-minded mice, sponsors the rescue of a Norwegian poet languishing in prison. Involved in the dangerous mission are a sturdy plebian mouse, a seafaring Norwegian mouse, and a refined and educated female mouse, Miss Bianca. Their heroic venture is delightfully detailed, and the illustrations by Garth Williams are among his beguiling best.

Ad Sobol, Donald J. The First Book of Medieval Man; pictures by Lili Réthi. 5-7 Watts, 1959. 66p. \$1.95.

Title is somewhat misleading, since the book is (as the author explains) chiefly about the mode of life in England during the ten year reign of Richard I. General information on the feudal system, the role of the church, and the social strata is good; there is less information on lower social groups. Brief chapters on transportation, food, medicine, schools, etc. give useful facts; there are some aspects of medieval life that distinguish the period but are not discussed in any detail: these are unfortunate omissions. The building of the great cathedrals and the songs of the troubadors might well have been mentioned. Writing style is dry and sedate.

R Sprague, Rosemary. Dance for a Diamond Star. Walck, 1959. 218p. \$2.50. 7-10

The fictionalized biography of one of the most famous early ballerinas, Maria de Camargo, known as La Camargo. Of special interest to dance fans, the story of La

Camargo will hold the attention of any girl who likes to read of romance, unrequited love, court life, and the glamor of theater in the eighteenth century. Writing pace is lively and the people in La Camargo's life are convincingly portrayed.

Ad Thomas, Estelle Webb. The Torch Bearer; illus. by Max Savitt. Watts, 1959. 5-7 184p. \$2.95.

The story of Nanabah, a Navajo girl who resists at first the new ways she learns at the school run by white people. Nanabah loves to help people, and she finds her second year at school that helping with the small children and doing hospital work give her great satisfaction. As she assumes an adult role, Nanabah realizes that she wants to help her own people rather than doing any other kind of work. Good background, adequate characterization, and a sympathy and understanding for the Navajo citizen—those who cling to the old ways as well as those who choose the new. The writing style is slow, a bit dull; interest is in the picture of the Indian people rather than in action in which the characters are involved.

M Vinton, Iris. The Story of Edith Cavell; illus. by Gerald McCann. Grosset, 5-7 1959. 178p. (A Signature Book) \$1.95.

A biography of the English nurse who is as famous for her patriotic record in the first world war as she is for her contribution to the nursing profession. Her story is told in fictionalized form; she is described in mildly adulatory fashion. The chief weakness of the book is the writing style: the author has a proclivity to use worn phraseology, and a stilted series-formula effect is pervasive.

M Watson, Jane Werner. Birds; pictures by Eloise Wilkin. Golden Press, 1958. 2-3 25p. (A Big Golden Book) Trade ed., \$1. Cloth ed., \$2.52.

An oversize edition that uses about half the material that was in the 1958 Giant Little Golden Book of Birds, a fifty-cent paperbound of 56 pages. (Reviewed Vol. XII, No. 8). This edition omits the endpaper picture-chart; it seems to have less to offer than the earlier edition, its advantage being that the size of the pages makes illustrations easily seen when shown to a group.

NR Watts, Mabel. Everyone Waits; pictures by Imre Hofbauer. Abelard-Schuman, 3-5 1959. 42p. \$2.75.

yr. A read-aloud picture book in which one idea is over-expanded. Mother explains to Tommy how birds wait when they are nesting, and Daddy waits for his bus; farmers wait for spring, and in railroad stations people wait for trains. The one idea is elaborated to a rather boring extent. Tommy ends by asking the reader, "What are YOU waiting for?" Patience is overstressed here. The illustrations are good, but they are in a technique that seems unsuitable for a picture book, since they are confusing in detail when looked at closely.

Ad Weiss, Harvey. The Sooner Hound; A Tale from American Folklore; illus. by the author. Putnam, 1959. 46p. \$2.75.

Another version of the familiar tall tale, and quite an engaging one, about the railroad fireman's dog who could outrun any train. On the day of his great race against the Cannon Ball, the sooner hound saved the day by tightening the axle bolts of the wheels with his geeth as he ran. Good storytelling material, with humor in the situation and flavor in the style; this is not as distinguished a version as is Bontemps' The Faster Sooner Hound (Houghton Mifflin, 1942).

NR Worm, Piet. Three Little Horses. Random House, 1958. 62p. illus. \$1.3-5 yrs.

A tall (7" by 17") oversize book for reading aloud to very small children. Three pet horses lived in the palace with three little princesses, where they were hand-fed with golden spoons, escorted to bed by the princesses who sang them lullabies, etc. One day the horses decided to run away; they helped the owner of a merry-go-round and when the sad little princesses found their dear pets, the horses convinced the girls that their new life was more useful. The text is sugary and the conception of animal behavior most unnatural: the horses sit upright at desks and learn to write and draw. Illustrations combine caricatured humans and elaborate details of costume and décor, with a florid effect.

R Wriston, Hildreth Tyler. A Yankee Musket; illus. by Jo Polseno. Abingdon, 4-6 1959. 191p. \$3.

A Revolutionary War story set in Vermont. When his father was taken captive by the Indians, Stephen Tuttle was left responsible for his mother and a younger brother and sister. They left the safety of their cabin and set out on the long hike to a settlement, but Stephen was picked up by the British. He met a boy from his own part of the country—a Tory lad—and found that enemies could be friendly and upright people. A good period story, well-written; friendship values and the acceptance of responsibility are stressed without any obtrusion on the narrative.

Ad Yurka, Blanche. Dear Audience; A Guide to the Enjoyment of the Theatre; 7-9 drawings by Raffaello Busoni. Prentice-Hall, 1959. 162p. \$3.

A well-established actress gives a brief history of theatre, describes some of the techniques and procedures of dramatic production and discusses contemporary forms of theatrical entertainment. This is interesting material written in a casual manner; it is weakened somewhat by occasional instances of talking down to the readers, by some abrupt changes from one topic to another, and by a tendency to indulge in personal anecdotes, not all of which are relevant or interesting.

NR Zaidenberg, Arthur. How To Draw Dogs, Cats and Horses. Abelard-Schuman, 5-7 1959. 64p. illus. \$3.

The pages of drawings of each of these three animals—dog, cat and horse—are preceded by a brief amount of text, and occasional other comments are made on the illustrative pages, but for the most part the instruction is within the drawing itself. The reader is given some information about using ovals and circles, and the author-illustrator then demonstrates by adding details the way to make the full drawing. Not an adequate teaching guide: explanation is scanty and the drawings themselves have the quality of poster or commercial art work.

R Zarchy, Harry. Jewelry Making and Enameling; written and illus. by Harry 6- Zarchy. Knopf, 1959. 121p. \$2.95.

A most useful and informative book for the reader with little or no experience in doing this kind of craft work. The instruction is given slowly, each page of text being faced by a page of numbered diagrams and photographs. Each step in the process is discussed separately, as are the tools, raw materials, and alternative suggestions. Many specific suggestions for designs or treatment are given, but the reader can acquire from this book a comprehensive knowledge of the basic techniques that will enable him to enjoy this hobby creatively.

Reading for Teachers

- Andrew, Dean C., and Easley, Curtis. "Analyzing Reading Interests." Clearing House, pp. 496-501. April, 1959.
- Baughman, M. Dale, comp. Teacher's Treasury of Stories for Every Occasion. Prentice-Hall, 1959. 375p. \$4.95.
- Berry, June. "Using Your Library To Enrich Instruction." Education, pp. 106-108. October, 1959.
- Christopher, Georgia. "Literature and the Beginning Teacher." English Journal, pp. 321-325. September, 1959.
- Crosby, Muriel. "Getting Underway in Reading." Elementary English, pp. 470-474. November, 1959.
- Dawson, Muriel. "Children Learn as They Read." Elementary English, pp. 475-477. November, 1959.
- Deighton, Lee C. Vocabulary Development in the Classroom. Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, New York, 1959. \$1.25.
- Gray, William S. "The Challenge Faced in Promoting Desirable Reading Interests." Education, pp. 551-556. May, 1959.
- Pounds, Ralph L., and Bryner, James R. The School in American Society. Macmillan, 1959. 518p. \$6.75.
- Reading Teacher. "Promoting Growth in the Interpretation of What Is Read." February, 1959. Entire Issue.
- Root, Shelton L., Jr. "Children's Literature and Children's Literacy." Elementary English, pp. 289-293. May, 1959.
- Salisbury, Gordon, and Sheridan, Robert. Catalog of Free Teaching Aids. 2d ed. rev. Apply to either author at P. O. Box 943, Riverside, California. Send \$1.50 by check or money order to either name. This is a subject list for elementary and high school.
- Smith, James Steel. "Blind Alleys in Children's Literature." Elementary English, pp. 223-225. April, 1959.
- University of Oregon. Selected Supplementary Book Materials, Published 1945-1957. Apply to Curriculum Bulletin, School of Education at the University, Eugene, Oregon. 49p. \$1.50. For intermediate social studies, graded and annotated.
- Witt, F. "Remedial Reading in the Junior High Schools: a Practical Report." Elementary English, pp. 35-41. January, 1959.

